

Region 1 Fire Danger Outlook

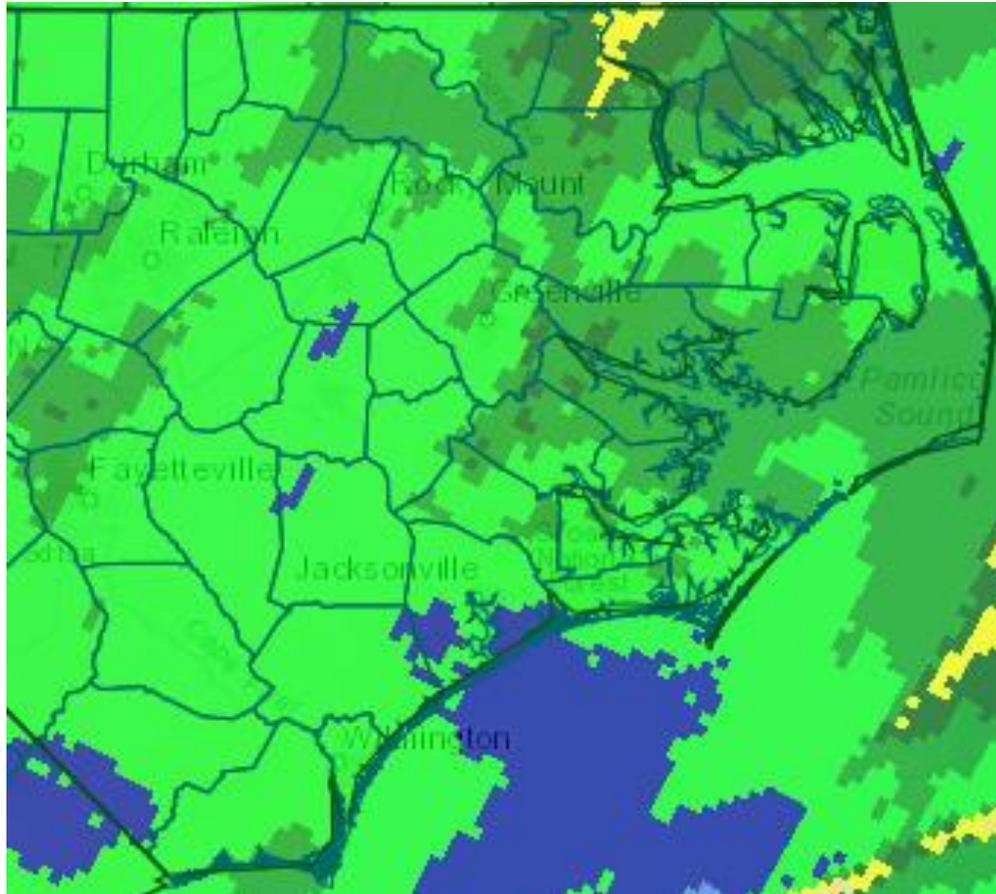
3/16/18

Cabe Speary, Fire Environment Forester, 252-325-3089

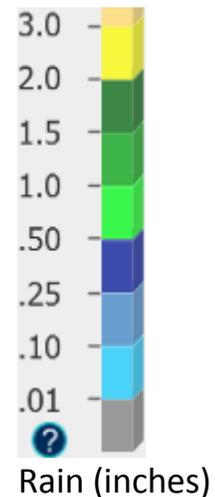
Weather Outlook

- A dry cold front near the south coast will move to the south today and become stationary. Weak low pressure will move through late Saturday, pulling the front back north as a warm front. A strong area of low pressure and its trailing cold front will move through Tuesday. High pressure moves into the area on Tuesday. For March 23-29, there is an **equal chance of above or below** normal precipitation.
- Minimum RH will generally be in the mid 20s today, climbing to 40s-low 50s for tomorrow, then continuing to climb to the 60s for Sunday through Tuesday. For the remainder of the period, expect 40s.
- Winds will generally be out of the NW today at 8-12 MPH with gusts to 18. For the remainder of the period they will be 5-10 MPH with gusts to 20 near the coast. Mixing heights of 4,500-6,000 feet for today; 2,000-4,000 feet for tomorrow, with transport winds NW at 16-20 MPH for today and S/SW at 7-15 MPH for tomorrow.
- High temperatures will generally be in the 50s to low 60s. Lows will range from mid 30s-low 40s for the remainder of the period. For March 23-29, there is a 33-40% change of **below** normal temperatures.

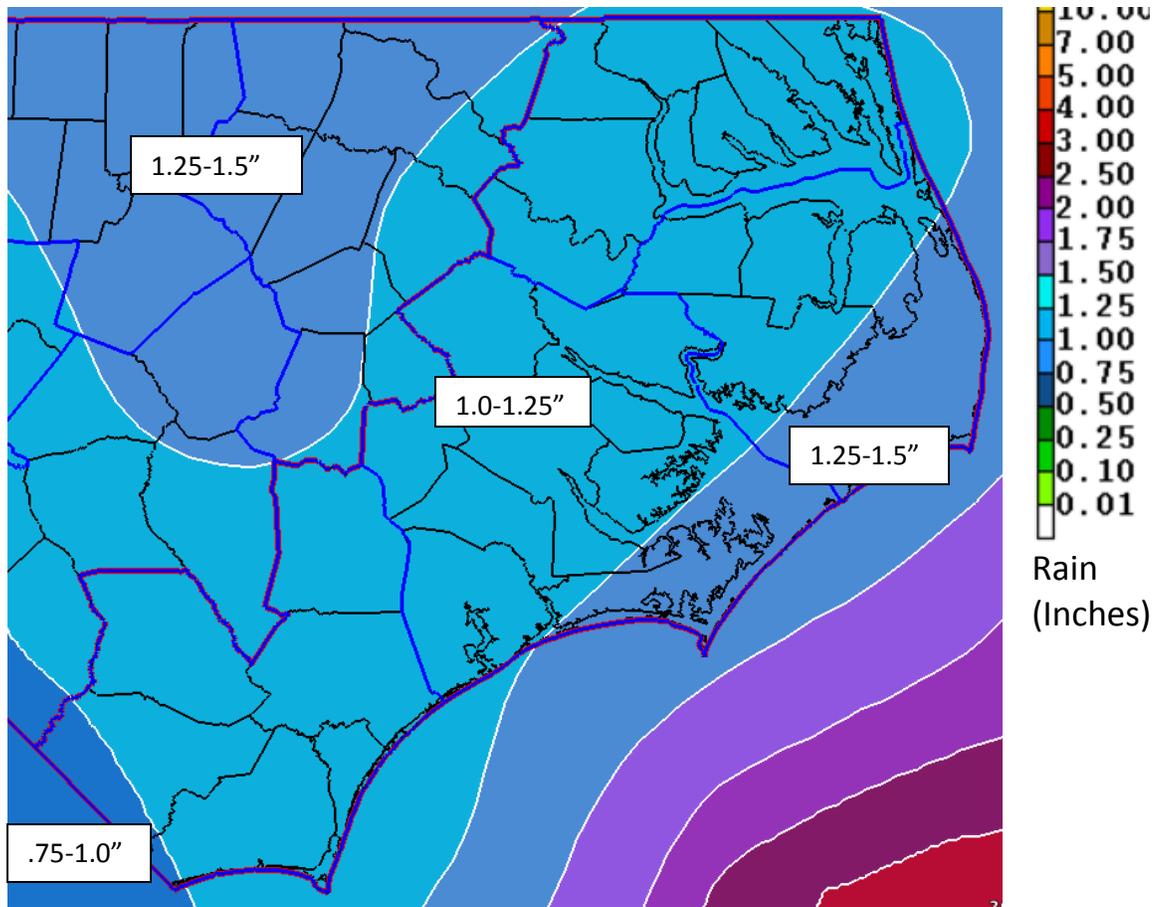
Precipitation Estimates for March 10nd, 0700 to March 16th, 0700



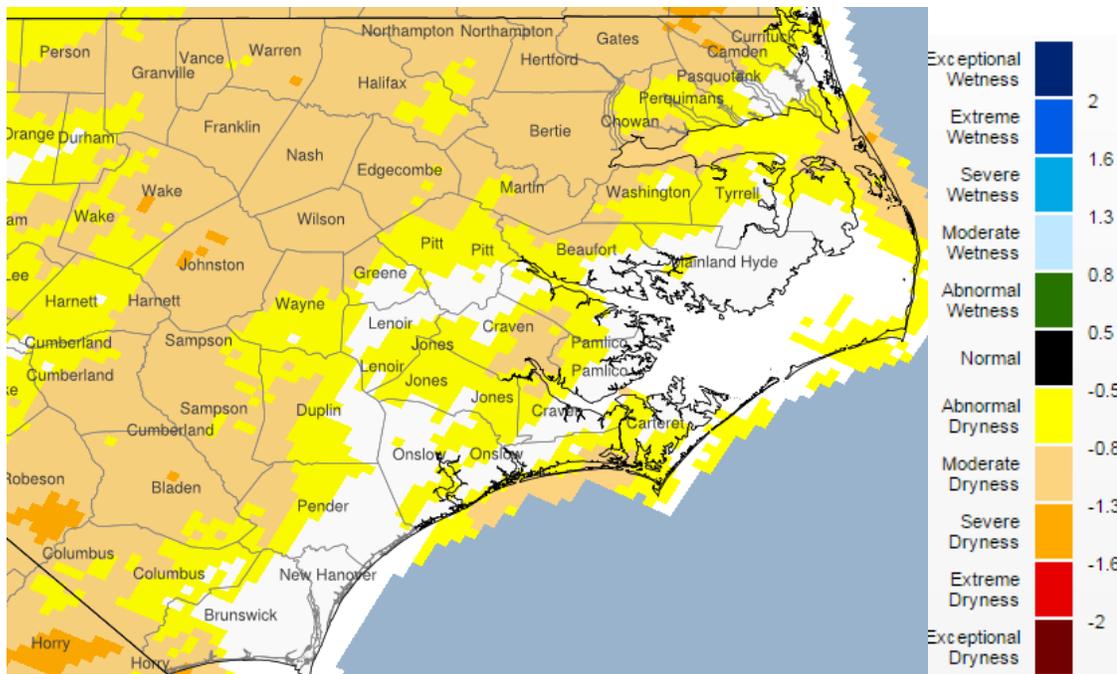
½" to nearly 2" over most of the region this past week.



Forecast Precipitation, March 16, 0700-March 22, 0700

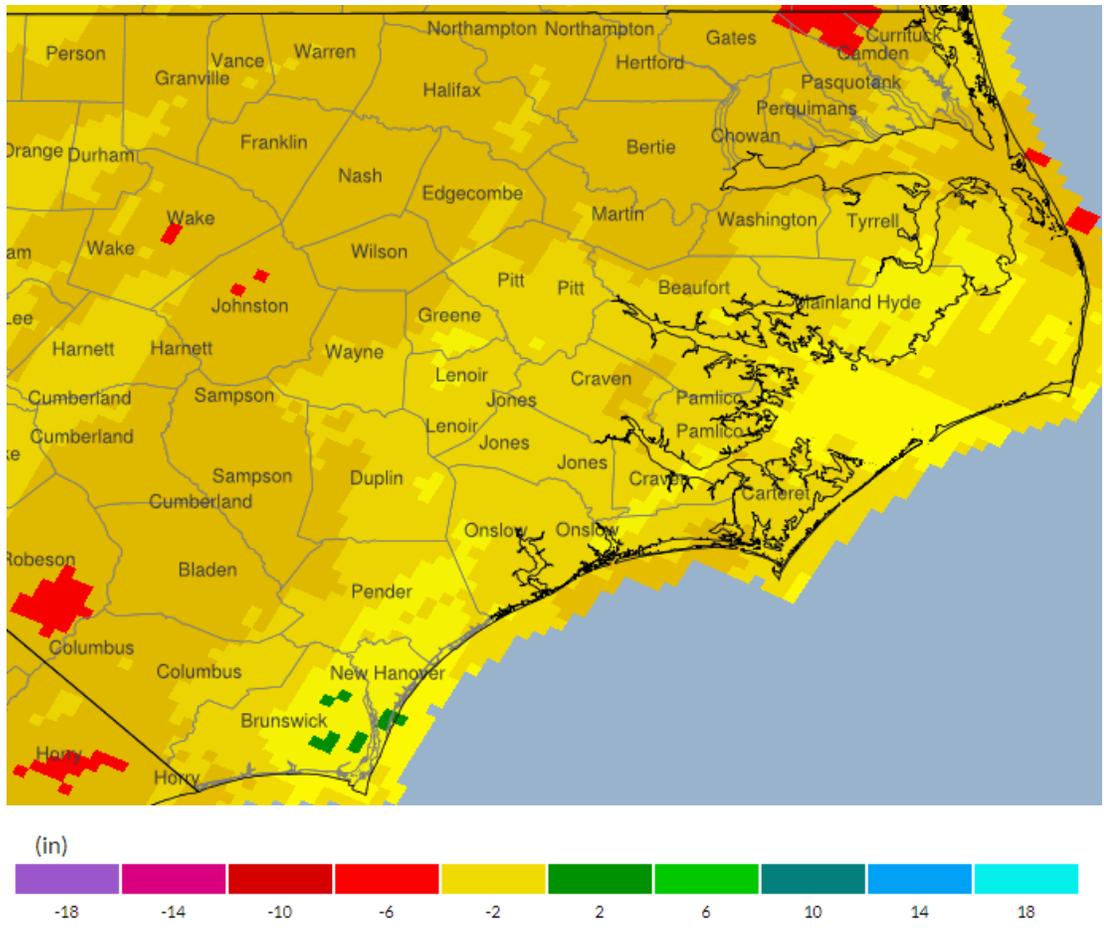


90 Day Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) Blend



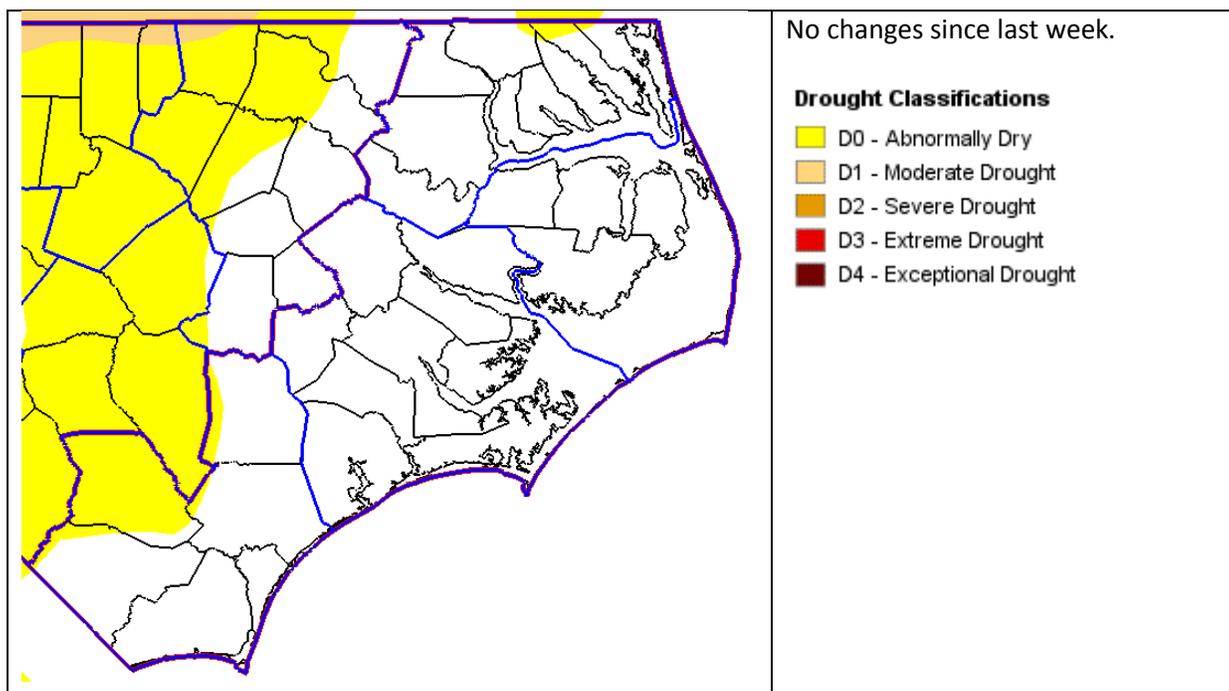
Much of the region in some level of dryness over the last 3 months.

90 day Departure from Normal

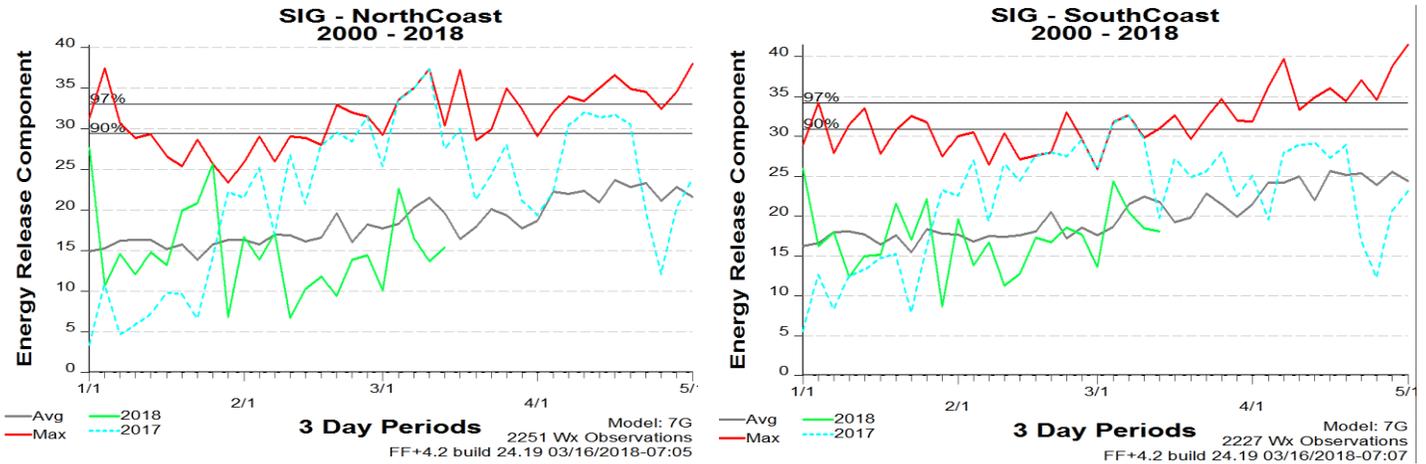


It would take 3-4" more than normal over the next 90 days to "catch up" to average rainfall amounts over most of the region.

Drought Map, as of March 13, 2018

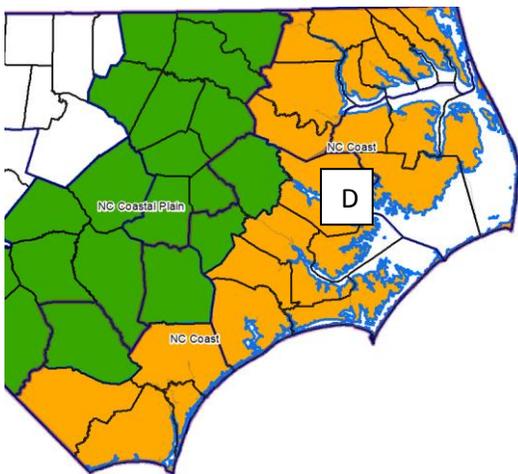


ERC Trends

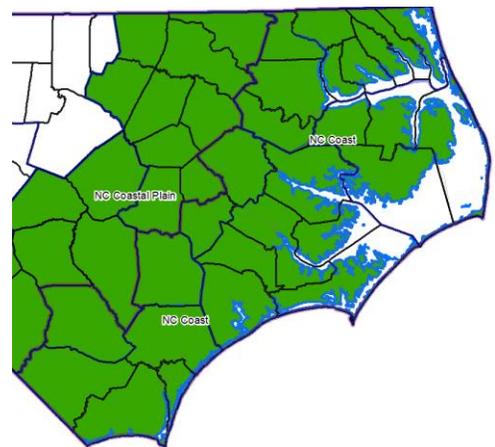


ERCs have increased slightly. As with last week, the expected rain should keep these and larger fuel moistures in check through the period. If you want a closer look at any of the graphs, just click the + button on the top ribbon and scroll to the graph of interest.

Seven Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook

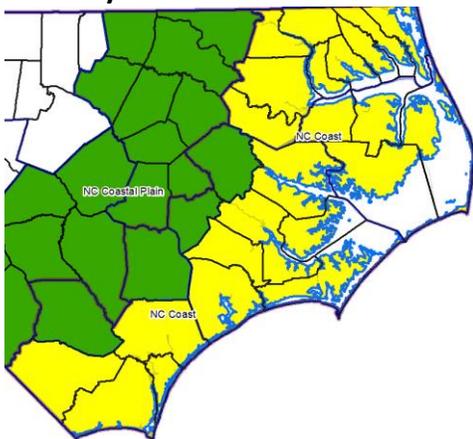


D-Low
 $RH(< 35\%)$



Saturday-Wednesday

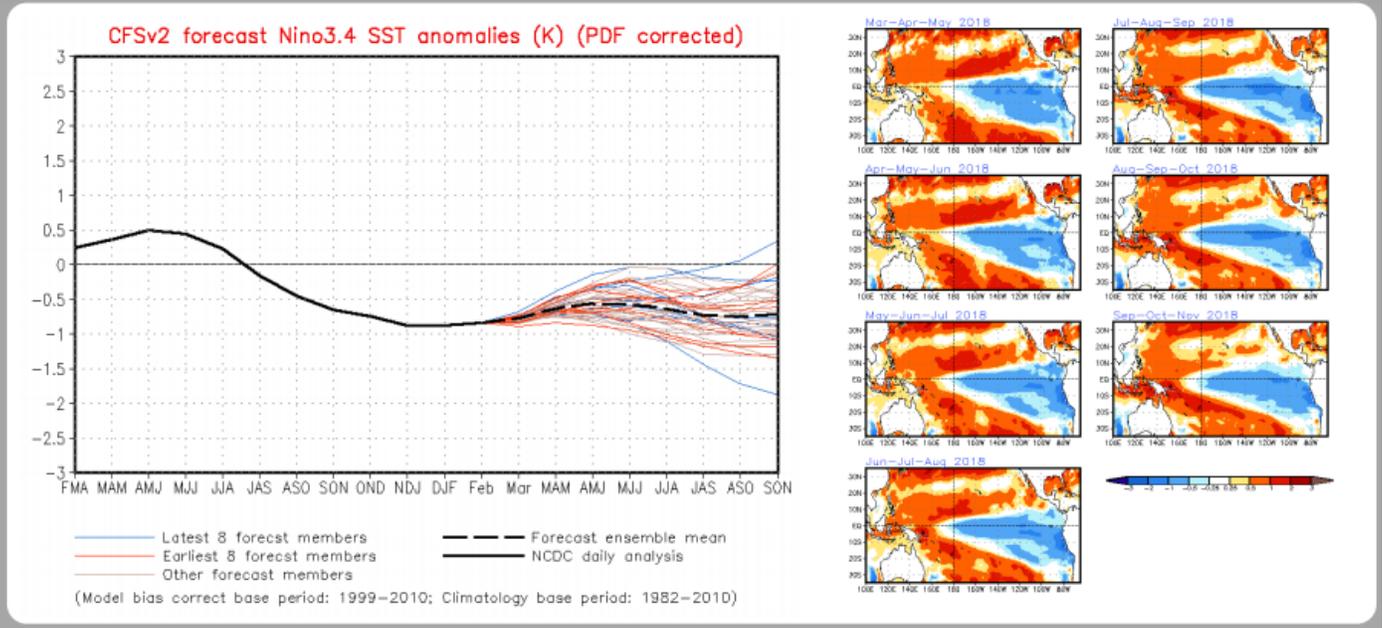
Today



Thursday

ENSO UPDATE, March 12th

The CFS.v2 ensemble mean (black dashed line) favors borderline ENSO-neutral or La Niña conditions into Northern Hemisphere fall 2018.



A neutral ENSO means difficulty predicting long term weather. For these types of forecasts, the NWS uses what is called a “persistence” forecast. For example, last summer was ENSO neutral and warmer than normal, so their prediction for this summer is also warmer than normal. See graph below.

3 Month Forecast: April-June

